



Income and Expected Family Contribution – How Do They Relate?

Aug 2013

Expected Family Contribution, or EFC, is a measure of one's ability to pay for college. Based on information that prospective college students provide on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the EFC is used in calculating students' eligibility for federal need-based financial aid as well as, often, state- and institutionally-funded aid. The higher a student's EFC, the more the student or student's family is expected to contribute to the costs of college.

In order to calculate EFC, the FAFSA collects information related to a broad range of individual circumstances, such as whether a student is dependent or independent, whether the student has dependents of his or her own, how many members of the family are attending college, and other considerations. By design, student or family income alone cannot be used to estimate EFC. Rather, the purpose of the EFC is to provide a measure of ability to pay for college based on a more comprehensive range of factors. (For more information about the EFC formula, see the 2012-13 EFC Formula Guide at <http://ifap.ed.gov/efcformulaguide/attachments/010512EFCFormulaGuide1213.pdf>)

While the EFC takes into consideration numerous factors in addition to income, the table on the following page provides background on the relationship between income and EFC. It shows the average EFC for various value ranges of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), as reported by financial aid applicants on their U.S. federal individual income tax returns. The table is based on an analysis of FAFSAs filed by Iowa residents between July 2012 and June 2013. This table cannot be used to estimate any individual family's EFC. Rather, it is intended to provide only a broad sense of the relationship between family income and expected family contribution (EFC).

In addition to the table on the following page, Iowa College Aid provides a link to an online EFC estimator at www.IHaveAPlanIowa.gov. This online EFC estimator takes users' individual circumstances into account and can provide a clearer sense of one's own EFC prior to completing the FAFSA.

**Average Expected Family Contribution (EFC) by Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for
Financial Aid Applicants in Iowa in 2012-2013**

AGI Range (\$)	Dependent Students Average EFC (\$)	Independent Students Average EFC (\$)
Less than 0	930	87
Equal to 0	74	45
1 thru 5,000	166	95
5,001 thru 10,000	231	84
10,001 thru 15,000	278	388
15,001 thru 20,000	497	1,214
20,001 thru 25,000	837	2,049
25,001 thru 30,000	1,771	2,574
30,001 thru 35,000	2,175	3,193
35,001 thru 40,000	3,225	4,169
40,001 thru 45,000	3,897	4,609
45,001 thru 50,000	4,630	5,167
50,001 thru 55,000	6,008	5,229
55,001 thru 60,000	6,821	6,470
60,001 thru 65,000	7,920	6,548
65,001 thru 70,000	9,497	8,234
70,001 thru 75,000	11,310	8,666
75,001 thru 80,000	12,720	9,409
80,001 thru 85,000	13,869	11,432
85,001 thru 90,000	16,459	12,091
90,001 thru 95,000	17,906	15,022
95,001 thru 100,000	19,508	16,668
100,001 thru 105,000	19,622	17,346
105,001 thru 110,000	22,384	20,373
110,001 thru 115,000	21,972	19,954
115,001 thru 120,000	24,471	26,383
120,001 thru 125,000	27,414	25,522
125,001 thru 130,000	25,945	25,848
130,001 thru 135,000	28,995	26,954
135,001 thru 140,000	31,197	27,580
140,001 thru 145,000	34,847	24,544
145,001 thru 150,000	36,331	32,794
150,001 thru 155,000	41,342	31,475
155,001 thru 160,000	37,977	34,131
160,001 thru 165,000	41,392	46,719
165,001 thru 170,000	39,446	46,098
170,001 thru 175,000	44,703	36,884
175,001 thru 180,000	43,316	48,215
180,001 thru 185,000	50,602	45,094
185,001 thru 190,000	42,441	60,608
190,001 thru 195,000	46,660	36,406
195,001 thru 200,000	52,438	54,017
Greater 200,000	69,574	66,093

Data table based on analysis of Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSAs) filed by Iowa residents July 2012 through June 2013.

Source: Iowa College Student Aid Commission